

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1328
By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to recognize Representative Jim Vincent of Soddy-Daisy on his meritorious service as a member of the House of Representatives of the Tennessee General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor our colleagues who in their years in office have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Representative Jim Vincent is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for four years representing the 31st House District in Rhea and Hamilton counties; as a legislator, his service to and concern for his constituents has been unparalleled; and

WHEREAS, James E. Vincent was first elected to serve the 31st House district in 2000 in an election in which he deposed a long-time Democrat incumbent, thus proving he could attract support from across the political spectrum; he has served with distinction in the 102nd and 103rd General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, a former student of Chattanooga State, Jim Vincent is an active and important part of his community who participates in numerous worthy organizations, including service on the Board of Bethel Bible Village and the Advisory Board of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Round Table and membership in the Pachyderm Club and the Chattanooga City Salesman Club; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Jim Vincent is the recipient of the 1979 Outstanding Young Men of America Award, the 2002 Dallas Bay Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue, Incorporated Citizen of the Year Award, and the 1998-1999 Hamilton County Education Association Outstanding Service to Public Education Award; and

WHEREAS, the penultimate public servant, he was a Hamilton County Commissioner for three years prior to his election to the General Assembly; he served with decorum as the

Chairman of the Hamilton County Finance and the Hamilton County Corrections and Retention Committees; and

WHEREAS, during his career in the House of Representatives, Jim Vincent has served on the House standing committees of Transportation and State and Local Government, the House State Government Subcommittee, the House Public Safety and Rural Roads Subcommittee, and the Joint Fiscal Review Committee; his colleagues on both sides of the aisle accord him high marks for his legislative acumen, skill in debate, and thorough knowledge of complex state government issues; and

WHEREAS, understanding the import of Tennessee's charitable organizations, Jim Vincent sponsored legislation that lowered the tax burden on vending machines operated for the benefit of a charity and legislation that allows utility districts to collect voluntary contributions for charitable causes; and

WHEREAS, during the 2002 session of the 102nd General Assembly, he contributed greatly to the defeat of a state income tax; and

WHEREAS, Jim Vincent also pushed for the repeal of the driver's license statute which gives undocumented immigrants the ability to obtain Tennessee driver's licenses during the 2004 Session of the 103rd General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Jim Vincent exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to community and good government that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable legislative career, Representative Vincent has demonstrated an ability and integrity surpassed by few, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his constituents, his colleagues in the House of Representatives, and the members of the Senate; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we bid a fond farewell to our friend and colleague, Representative Jim Vincent, extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, every continued success in the future, and much happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.